

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 SSM-03 TRSE-00 /085 W
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R 101500Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6090
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY LONDON

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LONDON FOR AMBASSADOR LEWIS

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINS, PINT, PLO, IS
SUBJECT: RAKAH LEADERS COMMENT ON PRAGUE MEETING WITH PLO

1. EMIL TOUMA AND UZI BURSTEIN, TWO RAKAH OFFICIALS, MET WITH ISRAELI PRESS ON MAY 9 TO DISCUSS THEIR MEETING IN PRAGUE WITH A PLO DELEGATION HEADED BY ABU-SHARAR, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE FATAH REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL.

2. ACCORDING TO THE ISRAELI PRESS, THE RAKAH LEADERS HAD TAKEN THE INITIATIVE IN ASKING FOR THIS MEETING TO IMPRESS THE ISRAELI ARAB ELECTORATE, WHICH IS EXPECTED TO GIVE STRONG SUPPORT TO RAKAH, THAT THEIR PARTY ENJOYS SPECIAL RELATIONS WITH THE PLO AND THAT THE RAKAH PROGRAM FOR A SETTLEMENT OF THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT IS CLOSE TO THAT
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OF THE PLO.

3. IF THIS WAS THE RAKAH INTENTION, IT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN AT BEST ONLY PARTIALLY SATISFIED. UNLIKE PREVIOUS PLO ENCOUNTERS WITH MEMBERS OF THE ISRAELI PEACE COUNCIL (SEE TEL AVIV A-71), THE PRAGUE MEETING WAS OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED BY THE PLO AND

EVIDENTLY ENJOYED BOTH CZECH AND SOVIET SUPPORT. THE PLO, HOWEVER, WHILE HAILING THE MEETING AS A SIGNIFICANT STEP IN DEVELOPING RELATIONS BETWEEN THE "DEMOCRATIC FORCES OF THE TWO SIDES," DID NOT COMMIT ITSELF TO ENDORSING THE RAKAH PROGRAM NOR ITS SELF-APPOINTED ROLE AS THE EXCLUSIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF PROGRESSIVE FORCES IN ISRAEL. INSTEAD, THE PLO SPOKESMEN REITERATED THAT THE PALESTINIANS ARE READY TO MEET IN EUROPE WITH ANY ANTI-ZIONIST REPRESENTATIVES FROM ISRAEL. NOR WOULD THE PLO REPRESENTATIVES COMMIT THEMSELVES ON THE RECOGNITION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL. UNDER QUESTIONING, BURSTEIN ADMITTED THAT THIS WAS ONE OF THE POINTS ON WHICH THERE WAS NOT TOTAL AGREEMENT WITH THE PLO. HE ELABORATED THAT THE PLO INSISTED THAT ISRAEL MUST FIRST DECLARE ITS READINESS TO RECONIZE THE PLO. ONLY THEN WOULD THE PLO "REVIEW ITS POSITION" ON RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL, BUT WITHOUT ADVANCE COMMITMENT. THE RAKAH SPOKESMEN INTERPRETED THIS AS AN INDICATION THAT THE PLO WAS PREPARED TO BE FLEXIBLE ON THIS ISSUE, IF ISRAEL IS READY TO TAKE THE FIRST STEP.

4. ACCORDING TO AJERUSALEM POST REPORTER WHO INTERVIEWED TOUMA, RAKAH WAS ALSO DISAPPOINTED OVER ANOTHER INCIDENT. TWO OF ITS FOUR DELEGATES TO THE PRAGUE MEETING HD PROCEEDED TO THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL MEETING IN WARSAW, WHERE THEY REQUESTED A MEETING WITH ARAFAT. HOWEVER, THEIR REQUEST ALLEGEDLY WAS REFUSED BECAUSE IN PLO EYES, THE RAKAH REPRESENTATIVES LACKED SUFFICIENT RANK. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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Message Attributes

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